

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) In a fuel filter comprising
a filter housing,
at least one filter element contained in the housing,
at least two connections, at least one of which connections serves as a fuel inlet and at least one of which serves as a fuel outlet, the improvement wherein the filter element is embodied as flat.

16. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises a folded filter material.

17. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 16, wherein the filter material is folded essentially into the shape of a block.

18. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel outlet.

19. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter element comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel outlet.

20. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

21. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

22. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

23. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

24. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

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25. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the connections is situated at an end of the filter housing.

26. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, characterized in that at least two of the connections are situated at opposite ends of the filter housing.

27. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising of a flow entry that at least reduces turbulence in the region of the side where the flow strikes the filter element.

28. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

29. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

30. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 29, wherein the flow baffle is inclined upward in relation to the flow direction.

31. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

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32. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

33. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 31, wherein the housing part and the cover are connected to each other by means of a nondetachable connection.

34. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a distribution stabilizer on the inlet side.